

~~Please~~ Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice. Please amend the claims 2 and 4-6 to read as follows:

c1 --2 (Amended). A polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence is represented by SEQ ID NO:8.

4 (Amended). A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, consisting essentially of amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO:8.

c2 5 (Amended). A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, consisting essentially of amino acid residues 101 (Ser) to 112 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO:8.

6 (Amended). A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, consisting essentially of amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO:8.--

REMARKS

I. Support for the Amendments

Claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended. Support for these claim, both before and after amendment, can be found throughout the specification.

II. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-44 were pending in the application. The Examiner issued an Office Action requiring election of claims and species. Applicants have made their election in the concurrently filed Response. Applicants have elected Group II (claims 1-7, 20 and 21).